



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: February 26, 2010

Number: 10-04

Subject: Comparability of Coursework for Sponsors of Special Education Teacher Preparation Programs

## Summary

This Program Sponsor Alert is to inform all Education Specialist program sponsors about the guidance report to Special Education teacher preparation programs for consideration of comparable experiences and coursework as alternatives to their regular course offerings. The Commission approved this report at its January 2010 meeting.

## Background

Assembly Member Ruskin's 2008 bill, AB 2226 called for the Commission to assemble a workgroup to provide written guidance for Special Education teacher preparation programs as they considered the previous experiences and coursework of credential candidates. The workgroup, whose membership provided a wide variety of professional expertise and organizations, determined that the evaluation process could include a broad range of possibilities such as courses taken at other universities, professional development, work experience, and life experience.

## Content

The report, *Comparability of Coursework for Sponsors of Special Education Teacher Preparation Programs*, offers several scenarios for implementation of this process, and guidance regarding the collection of evidence to support the comparability determinations. It encourages clear and concise written agreements between the program sponsor and the credential candidate.

## Implementation

The intent of the report is to be used as guidance by program sponsors as they advise candidates for Special Education Teacher Preparation. This guidance, while not mandated is to help program sponsors develop a formal, structured process for reviewing comparability and a candidate's previous experiences which may support their path to becoming a teacher of children with special needs. Also, Program Sponsors may find this helpful as they advise candidates as part of the accreditation process.

**References**

Report may be found on the Commission's Reports Page

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/reports/default.html>

January 2010 Commission Agenda Item 2D: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-2D.pdf>

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